UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical cooperation among developing countries

Distr.
LIMITED

TCDC/11/L.4
2 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Eleventh session
New York, 1-4 June 1999

A. REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION AND THE DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOUTH COMMISSION REPORT

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which the Assembly adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Reaffirming the validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Recalling the General Assembly resolutions on technical cooperation among developing countries, the latest of which were resolution 52/205 of 18 December 1997 and section II.E.1 of resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998,

Taking note of the final document of the Twelfth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[2]

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] A/53/667-S/1998/1071.

Taking note also of the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-second annual meeting, held in New York on 25 September 1998,[3]

Taking note further of the report prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,[4]

1. Reaffirms the great potential of technical cooperation among developing countries, which has now gained widespread acceptance as an innovative and effective instrument of technical cooperation, and urges developing countries to further continue to elaborate national policies and strategies for technical cooperation among developing countries so as to give full effect to this form of cooperation;

2. Welcomes the significant increase in technical cooperation among developing countries activities, both in number and in sectoral coverage, reported by developing countries and the United Nations system;

3. Also welcomes the growing interest in and support for technical cooperation among developing countries by a number of donors, including through triangular cooperation;

4. Reaffirms the call on all partners in the development effort to give first consideration to the use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in their technical cooperation programmes and projects;

5. Encourages developing countries that have not yet done so to establish national focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries and, where focal points have already been established, to ensure their effective and efficient functioning;

6. Stresses that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development and an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance, as well as a means of ensuring the effective integration and participation of developing countries in the world economy, and that it is not a substitute for but rather is complementary to North-South cooperation;

7. Stresses also the need for further concerted efforts to be made by the United Nations organizations and agencies, including the regional commissions, to increasingly integrate technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes, policies and procedures;

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[3] A/53/466, annex.

[4] TCDC/11/1.

8. Reiterates that South-South cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and, in that connection, emphasizes the need to effectively promote triangular approaches to facilitate South-South programmes and projects;

9. Also reiterates the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that international institutions and developed countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the use of technical resources from other developing countries;

10. Welcomes the increased interregional technical cooperation among developing countries activities undertaken by both developing countries and the United Nations system, such as the exchanges among countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean;

11. Calls upon the international community, given the importance accorded to South-South cooperation, to increase financial resources for such cooperation;

12. Urges international organizations and donor countries, in the context of triangular arrangements and the increased use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, to increase their financial support for technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

13. Notes with satisfaction the success of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, including the commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on 7 October 1998 which, inter alia, reaffirmed the continued validity and relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and called for the increased and expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in development cooperation;

14. Notes the high-level panel discussion organized by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on building partnerships for South-South cooperation in the new millennium, as well as the exhibition entitled "Building Bridges Across the South" held in the context of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

15. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its twelfth session a comprehensive biennial report on the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, as well as on the implementation of the present decision.

B. REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW DIRECTIONS STRATEGY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/119 of 20 December 1995 and 52/205 of 18 December 1997, as well as the related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling its decisions 9/2 of 2 June 1995 and 10/1 B of 9 May 1997 on the "Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries",

Reaffirming the continued relevance and validity of the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and equitable development and for ensuring their effective participation in the newly emerging global economic system,

1. Recognizes that important progress has been made by Member States and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, and, in this context, commends the efforts of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in orienting its activities fully in line with the new directions strategy;

2. Recognizes also that while progress has been made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, further progress can be achieved through, inter alia, the availability and provision of adequate resources, strengthening the participating institutions and enhancing the awareness of and the commitment to the technical cooperation among developing countries modality;

3. Stresses the need to further mobilize additional financial resources, from all sources, with a view to assisting the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to further implement and operationalize the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, particularly for ensuring their participation in the newly emerging global economic system;

4. Commends the ongoing efforts being made to promote improved, expanded and diversified linkages with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

5. Notes with satisfaction that a growing number of developing countries are taking a pivotal role in initiating, sponsoring and funding, from their own resources, technical cooperation among developing countries activities aimed at involving a large number of developing countries, welcomes, in this context, the broad criteria, highlighted in the report on progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy,[5] for identifying future pivotal countries, as advanced at the meeting on pivotal countries held in Santiago, Chile, in November 1997, and requests the Special Unit to further refine these criteria for wider application;

6. Notes with appreciation the financial contribution of some developed countries to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and urges the international donor community to contribute generously;

7. Encourages all countries to make an effort, in the context of the new directions strategy, to support economic and technical cooperation activities among developing countries, particularly those that have major impact on a large number of developing countries, through contributions to the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;

8. Requests the Special Unit to present to the High-Level Committee at its twelfth session a detailed report on the management and use of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation;

9. Also requests the Special Unit to document and disseminate successful triangular cooperation arrangements with a view to encouraging greater use by Member States, especially developed countries, of such a cooperation modality in their development cooperation programmes;

10. Welcomes the effort being made by the Special Unit in expanding the Information Referral System into a multidimensional web of information for development to serve as an Internet-based global gateway through which developing countries will be able to share their capacities and successful development practices, commends the Special Unit for assisting developing countries to establish national Web sites for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, and, in that regard, encourages the Special Unit to establish a network among focal points of all developing countries;

11. Invites all countries to make optimal use of the web of information for development system, and further invites all the organizations and agencies of the United Nations to make an effort to strengthen the linkages between their respective information systems relevant to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and the web of information for development system;

12. Urges all the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to intensify efforts to ensure effective integration of the use of the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in their regular programmes and activities, taking into consideration

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[5] TCDC/11/2.

the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on this subject,[6] which was endorsed by General Assembly resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998, and, in this context, requests the Special Unit, in consultation with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations, to develop common indicators for measuring progress and results in implementing these recommendations on a system-wide basis;

13. Calls upon developing, developed and other countries, their intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to give their full support to the effective implementation of the technical cooperation among developing countries framework, including support for innovative national, regional and interregional programmes and projects and the expanded utilization of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

14. Requests the Special Unit to ensure the effective implementation of the new directions strategy in Africa, bearing in mind the priority areas identified by African countries themselves in the Cairo Agenda for Action, as well as the Tokyo Agenda for Action, which stressed, among other things, the principles of accelerated economic growth for poverty reduction and further integration of the continent into the global economy in addition to the concepts of ownership and global partnership;

15. Welcomes the role of the Special Unit on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in supporting initiatives with regard to small island developing States, including the preparation of a Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme and the launching of a pilot small island developing States Information Network and urges further collaboration in this regard;

16. Emphasizes that, in the context of the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, the landlocked, transit developing countries and the donor countries and financial and development institutions should cooperate and intensify their efforts in order to overcome the transit transport problems, inter alia, through improving and further developing the transit transport infrastructure facilities and services and strengthening the institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport, with a view to expanding trade and achieving more equitable integration into the global economy;

17. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme is maintained, and decides to periodically review the impact and functioning of the Special Unit in promoting, monitoring and coordinating technical cooperation among developing countries on a system-wide basis;

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[6] A/53/266/Add.4.

18. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its twelfth session information on progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, with emphasis on the implementation of the present decision.